

I understand that Sinclair Broadcasting has issued an order for its stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is worrying for many levels.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated BY LAW to serve the public interest. Airing a 'documentary' that is as one-sided as "Stolen Honor" without airing another viewpoint (such as that offered by the film "Going Upriver") is patently not serving the public interest. It adds only to one side of the debate, which is not where the media ought to be.

But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line of those corporations and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at and promoted by "News Central" far away, it's important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive, impartial news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Media outlets must be more accountable to the public interest. Thank you.